

(CIRCULAR.)

TORONTO, 13th January, 1853.

MADAM,

The undersigned Ladies of Toronto have read with much interest and satisfaction, an Address from the Women of England, headed by the Duchess of Sutherland, to the Women of the United States, soliciting their interposition to mitigate, so far as their power and influence may extend, the evils of slavery as it exists in that country, Cordially participating in the sentiments of that Address, and desiring to co-operate in the good work, we have resolved ourselves into a Committee for the purpose of collecting signatures to be transmitted to England together with our own, that they may be appended to the same Address, in order that Canada may testify her sympathy in the benevolent design, and be permitted to unite in the appeal. We enclose a copy of the Address referred to, and take the liberty of suggesting, that should you approve of the object we have in view, you would take steps to constitute a Committee of Ladies in your own locality for the purpose of procuring signatures. As it is important that no time should be lost in forwarding our names to England, we beg that the returns may be made to us not later than the 20th of February, as we propose forwarding the whole to Her Grace, the Duchess of Sutherland, before the close of that month.

Communications to be addressed, (post paid), to MRS. JOHN RIDOUT, Toronto, the Secretary of the Central Committee.

SARAH M. GASETT,
C. BATTERSBY,
M. BEAVEN,
M. H. RIDOUT,

E. SANSON,
C. B. RIDOUT,
E. A. BADGLEY,
ANNE BOWES.



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Prof. Hewitt

The Duchess of Sutherland has invited the Women of England to join her in an affectionate Address to the Women of the United States on the subject of Slavery.

The Undersigned Women of Canada, equally British subjects with those of England, and nearer to the scene of Slavery, sympathise warmly in the feelings which prompted the Address, and adopt it as their own.

THE ADDRESS IS AS FOLLOWS:—

“ A common origin, a common faith, and, we sincerely believe, a common cause, urge us at the present moment to address you on the subject of that system of negro slavery, which still prevails so extensively, and even under kindly disposed masters, with such frightful results, in many of the vast regions of the Western World.

“ We will not dwell on the ordinary topics—on the progress of civilization, on the advance of freedom everywhere, on the rights and requirements of the 19th century—but we appeal to you very seriously to reflect, and to ask counsel of God, how far such a state of things is in accordance with His Holy Word, inalienable rights of immortal souls, and the pure and merciful spirit of the Christian religion.

“ We do not shut our eyes to the difficulties, nay, the dangers, that might beset the immediate abolition of that long-established system; we see and admit the necessity of preparation for so great an event; but, in speaking of indispensable preliminaries, we cannot be silent on those laws of your country which, in direct contravention of God’s own law, ‘instituted in the time of man’s innocency,’ deny, in effect, to the slave the sanctity of marriage, with all its joys, rights, and obligations, which separates, at the will of the master, the wife from the husband, and the children from the parents. Nor can we be silent on that awful system which, either by statute or by custom, interdicts to any race of man, or any portion of the human family, education in the truths of the Gospel and the ordinances of Christianity.

“ A remedy applied to these two evils alone would commence the amelioration of their sad condition. We appeal, then, to you as sisters, as wives, and as mothers, to raise your voices to your fellow-citizens, and your prayers to God, for the removal of this affliction from the Christian world. We do not say these things in a spirit of self-complacency, as though our nation were free from the guilt it perceives in others. We acknowledge with grief and shame our heavy share in this great sin. We acknowledge that our forefathers introduced, nay, compelled the adoption of slavery in those mighty colonies. We humbly confess it before Almighty God; and it is because we so deeply feel and so unfeignedly avow our own complicity, that we now venture to implore your aid to wipe away our common crime and our common dishonour.”

